

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) A multi-channel digital data sending-out apparatus comprising:

management means for supervising information gathered from at least one information source;

programming means for supervising information of digital data being sent and controlling the progress of the digital data to be sent out;

registering means for registering the information of the digital data gathered from the at least one information source to a server in order to be sent out;

holding means for holding the digital data;

sending-out means for sending out the digital data held by said holding means to a transmission path as multi-channel digital data;

connection means for interconnecting said management means, programming means, registering means, holding means and the sending-out means to permit each of said means to access at least one other of said means;

conversion means for converting the format of the digital data held by said holding means into a transmission format, and for multiplexing time information, service identification information, and service management information to generate a stream which is sent out; and

~~The multi-channel digital data sending-out apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said conversion means comprises:~~

auxiliary holding means for holding at least a two-day installment of the digital data, progress information and system configuration information.

6. (Currently Amended) A multi-channel digital data sending-out apparatus comprising:

management means for supervising information gathered from at least one information source;

programming means for supervising information of digital data being sent and controlling the progress of the digital data to be sent out;

registering means for registering the information of the digital data gathered from the at least one information source to a server in order to be sent out;

holding means for holding the digital data;

sending-out means for sending out the digital data held by said holding means to a transmission path as multi-channel digital data;

connection means for interconnecting said management means, programming means, registering means, holding means and the sending-out means to permit each of said means to access at least one other of said means;

conversion means for converting the format of the digital data held by said holding means into a transmission format, and for multiplexing time information, service identification information, and service management information to generate a stream which is sent out; and

auxiliary holding means for holding at least a two-day installment of the digital data, progress information and system configuration information;

~~The multi-channel digital data sending-out apparatus according to claim 5,~~  
wherein said system configuration information is updated using a portion of a file  
name thereof.

7. (Currently Amended) A multi-channel digital data sending-out apparatus  
comprising:

management means for supervising information gathered from at least one  
information source;

programming means for supervising information of digital data being sent and  
controlling the progress of the digital data to be sent out;

registering means for registering the information of the digital data gathered from  
the at least one information source to a server in order to be sent out;

holding means for holding the digital data;

sending-out means for sending out the digital data held by said holding means to a  
transmission path as multi-channel digital data;

connection means for interconnecting said management means, programming  
means, registering means, holding means and the sending-out means to permit each of  
said means to access at least one other of said means; and

conversion means for converting the format of the digital data held by said  
holding means into a transmission format, and for multiplexing time information, service  
identification information, and service management information to generate a stream  
which is sent out;

~~The multi-channel digital data sending-out apparatus according to claim 4,~~  
wherein said conversion means comprises:  
current operating system conversion means; and  
stand-by conversion means to be substituted for said current operating system  
conversion means in case of a malfunction of the current operating system.

Claims 8-14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A multi-channel digital data sending-out apparatus  
comprising:  
holding means for holding digital data to be sent out;  
conversion means for converting the format of the digital data held by said  
holding means into a format for transmission;  
a sending-out means for sending out the digital data converted by said conversion  
means to a transmission path as multi-channel digital data;  
monitoring means for monitoring digital data read out from said holding means,  
digital data converted by said conversion means or digital data sent out by said sending-  
out means; and  
supplying means for supplying the digital data read out from said holding means,  
digital data converted by said conversion means or digital data sent out by said sending-  
out means;  
wherein said monitoring means includes detection means for detecting a level of  
the digital data; and

~~The multi-channel digital data sending-out apparatus according to claim 14,~~  
wherein said detection means issues an alarm if said digital data is not monitored  
for longer than a predetermined period.

Claim 16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A multi-channel digital data sending-out apparatus  
comprising:  
holding means for holding digital data to be sent out;  
conversion means for converting the format of the digital data held by said  
holding means into a format for transmission;  
a sending-out means for sending out the digital data converted by said conversion  
means to a transmission path as multi-channel digital data;  
monitoring means for monitoring digital data read out from said holding means,  
digital data converted by said conversion means or digital data sent out by said sending-  
out means; and  
supplying means for supplying the digital data read out from said holding means,  
digital data converted by said conversion means or digital data sent out by said sending-  
out means;  
wherein said sending-out means comprises:  
first sending-out means for performing sending-out processing;  
second sending-out means for performing sending-out processing; and

switching means for switching from the first sending-out means or the second sending-out means to the other of said first and second sending out means in the event of a malfunction of either said first or second sending out means; and  
~~The multi-channel digital data sending-out apparatus according to claim 16,~~  
wherein said monitoring means includes a switch for selecting digital data to be monitored, and wherein said switch is responsive to said switching means.

18. (Currently Amended) A multi-channel digital data sending-out apparatus comprising:  
holding means for holding digital data to be sent out;  
conversion means for converting the format of the digital data held by said holding means into a format for transmission;  
a sending-out means for sending out the digital data converted by said conversion means to a transmission path as multi-channel digital data;  
monitoring means for monitoring digital data read out from said holding means, digital data converted by said conversion means or digital data sent out by said sending-out means; and  
supplying means for supplying the digital data read out from said holding means, digital data converted by said conversion means or digital data sent out by said sending-out means;  
~~The multi-channel digital data sending-out apparatus according to claim 12,~~  
wherein said monitoring means for monitoring the digital data converted by said conversion means displays information concerning digital data converted by said

conversion means and sent out, and digital data which is to be converted and sent out, in a progress table.

Claims 19-22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) A multi-channel digital data sending-out apparatus comprising:

programming means for supervising the information of digital data to be sent out, programming the digital data to be sent out as to its progress, and for generating progress information;

holding means for holding the information of the digital data, the progress information, and any other information necessary for sending out the digital data;

conversion means for converting the format of the digital data into a format for transmission;

sending-out means for sending out the digital data converted by said conversion means to a transmission path as multi-channel digital data; and

monitoring means for monitoring said programming means, conversion means or said sending-out means as to malfunctioning thereof so that required information held by said holding means is supplied to said programming means, conversion means or said sending-out means;

wherein said sending-out means comprises:

first sending-out means for performing sending processing;

second sending-out means for performing sending processing; and

switching means for switching one of the first sending-out means or the second sending-out means to the other if one of the first or second sending-out means is in disorder;

~~The multi-channel digital data sending-out apparatus according to claim 22,~~

wherein said first sending-out means and said second sending-out means monitor each other so that, if one of the first sending-out means and the second sending-out means malfunctions, the other signals said monitoring means.

24. (Currently Amended) A multi-channel digital data sending-out apparatus comprising:

programming means for supervising the information of digital data to be sent out, programming the digital data to be sent out as to its progress, and for generating progress information;

holding means for holding the information of the digital data, the progress information, and any other information necessary for sending out the digital data;

conversion means for converting the format of the digital data into a format for transmission;

sending-out means for sending out the digital data converted by said conversion means to a transmission path as multi-channel digital data; and

monitoring means for monitoring said programming means, conversion means or said sending-out means as to malfunctioning thereof so that required information held by said holding means is supplied to said programming means, conversion means or said sending-out means;

wherein said sending-out means comprises:

first sending-out means for performing sending processing;

second sending-out means for performing sending processing; and

switching means for switching one of the first sending-out means or the  
second sending-out means to the other if one of the first or second sending-out  
means is in disorder;

~~The multi-channel digital data sending-out apparatus according to claim 22;~~

wherein the one of said first sending-out means or said second sending-out means  
that is operating, advises said holding means in a pre-set manner.

Claims 25-34. (Canceled)